

and inform on the economic, legal, policy, social, cultural and other factors that impact black-owned businesses.

GBNA is a regional network of business and nonprofit leaders that represents all industry sectors. Founded in 2007, GBNA's membership consists of start-up and experienced entrepreneurs and businesses. GBNA has assisted the local business community by working to bring the issues and concerns of small businesses to the forefront of the national economic agenda.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud the work of these two venerable institutions in Northern Virginia, and send our best wishes for a successful celebration dinner.

CONGRATULATING SAINT MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Saint Maria Goretti School in Westfield, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the U.S. Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Saint Maria Goretti School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While 417 schools nationwide may be nominated, only 286 are chosen as a National Blue Ribbon School, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Since opening in 1996, Saint Maria Goretti School has consistently provided its students with an outstanding education in both academics and the Catholic faith and currently serves 460 students in grades K–8. The school starts each day with a prayer that provides guiding principles for its students. As a mother whose children attended Catholic school, I applaud Saint Maria Goretti for its work to develop each child in mind, body, and spirit.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Saint Maria Goretti School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators and parents

across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Saint Maria Goretti School. I am very proud of you.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY-BELLEVILLE

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 10th Anniversary of Lindenwood University-Belleville.

While Lindenwood University-Belleville, at 10 years old, is a relative newcomer for institutions of higher learning, it is part of Lindenwood University which has a long history in the Midwest. Founded in 1827 in St. Charles, Missouri, Lindenwood University is the second oldest college west of the Mississippi River.

As a four-year liberal arts university with a rich tradition in the St. Louis metropolitan area, the administration of Lindenwood University began talks with city leaders in Belleville, Illinois around 2001, looking to expand the university to the east side of the Mississippi River. The Belleville High School District had recently moved the location of the Belleville West High School to another location, leaving an existing facility ready for use. Talks proved fruitful and Lindenwood University acquired the 22 acre tract of land for its Belleville campus in November of 2003.

The first classes for LU-Belleville were held in the Spring Quarter of 2004 for an incoming class of 52 students. Initially only offering evening classes, the first programs were a Master of Arts in Education and Education Administration.

Today, LU-Belleville has over 1,000 full-time students enrolled in a wide range of academic programs with hundreds more in graduate, continuing education and specialized programs. In its first decade, LU-Belleville has grown into a strong and vibrant institution that contributes much to the richness of Belleville and to the higher education choices of Southern Illinois.

This past spring, I had the high honor of addressing graduates at LU-Belleville's first commencement exercises. I quoted Lindenwood University's mission statement to provide programs "leading to the development of the whole person—an educated, responsible citizen of a global community." In its first decade, LU-Belleville has done just that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the administration, faculty, staff and student body of Lindenwood University-Belleville on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary and wishing them continued success for many more years to come.

RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Do-

mestic Violence Awareness Month. During each October since 1981, we mourn those who have died due to domestic violence, celebrate those who have survived, and connect those who work to end violence.

Many of us know someone who has suffered from domestic violence. Whether you are a sibling, parent, or friend, your support is necessary. Each day, three women die as a result of domestic violence. Your support could turn a battered woman into a survivor.

Domestic violence not only affects more than 12 million people each year, but one in four women have been a victim of physical violence by a partner. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a helpful tool to combat violence, but the fight against domestic violence must continue. VAWA improved the criminal justice response to violence against women and the reauthorization this year extends protection to native women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

Though policies are put in place to end domestic violence and to support women who are survivors, it is essential that we also provide critical resources to save lives and prevent future domestic crimes. When women are silent, domestic violence thrives. But when women speak out, domestic violence can end. I urge my colleagues to support programs and shelters nationwide that provide safety for the many survivors each day.

HONORING CHARLES L. BLOCKSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the scholarship and dedication of historian Charles L. Blockson, upon the occasion of the publication of his latest book—The President's House Revisited Behind The Scenes: The Samuel Fraunces Story. For most of his life Mr. Blockson has collected and preserved African and African American historical tomes, art and artifacts. In 2001 I was privileged to have sponsored an appropriation to fund the digitalization of the Collection.

Housed at Temple University, the Collection is one of the nation's leading research facilities for the study of the history and culture of Africans of the Diaspora with special emphasis on the lives and experiences of African Americans in Philadelphia and the surrounding Delaware Valley.

I am proud to know this much esteemed and dedicated man who has provided us with a window into the lives of the African and African Americans who too often have been written out of history. I salute Charles L. Blockson, a distinguished scholar.

HONORING BENAVIDEZ-PATTERSON "ALL AIRBORNE" CHAPTER, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division,